

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-06 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 XMB-02 /126 W
-----075011 200639Z /15

R 190709Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4457
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

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USMTN ALSO FOR USMISSION
OECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY
USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY
CINCPAC FOR AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD AND POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, JA, US

SUBJECT: MOOD IN JAPAN FOLLOWING STRAUSS VISIT

REF: TOKYO 0666

1. SUMMARY: TOKYO PRESS GENERALLY TOOK POSITIVE APPROACH TO RESULTS OF STRAUSS VISIT, EXPRESSED RELIEF DIFFERENCE WERE SMOOTHED AT LEAST FOR PRESENT, BUT HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY DIFFICULTY OF ACHIEVING SEVEN PERCENT GROWTH TARGET. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING STRAUSS VISIT JAPAN IS IN MOOD OF EMOTIONAL CATHARSIS ALLOYED WITH SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE. COVERAGE OF VISIT IN PRESS WAS DETAILED, EVEN BY TOKYO STANDARDS. JAPANESE WERE IMPRESSED BY THE SIZE AND RANK OF U.S. DELEGATION NOTING THAT FOUR AMBASSADORS PARTICIPATED ON U.S. SIDE AND AMB. TOGO HAD RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON FOR THE OCCASION. NIHON KEIZEI NOTED THAT VISIT WAS NOT A FORMALITY TO CONCLUDE ARRANGEMENT PREVIOUSLY WORKED OUT BUT RATHER A TIME FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS, AND MORE STEPS BY JAPAN WERE REQUESTED. NIHON KEIZEI ON JAN. 13 ALSO CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON THE MTN, FULLY EXPLAINING THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ADDITIONAL JAPANESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVES SOUGHT BY THE U.S.

3. FOLLOWING STRAUSS DEPARTURE, SEPARATE PRESS ARTICLES RECORDED THAT PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, KEIDANREN PRESIDENT DOKO, AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER NAKAGAWA WERE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. TONE OF THEIR REMARKS AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS WAS THAT JAPANESE INTERESTS WERE IN NO WAY HARMED AND IN SOME WAYS SERVED BY THE CONSULTATIONS WITH STRAUSS. NAKAGAWA WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO EXPLAIN THAT FARMING INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE DAMAGED, THAT INCREASED IMPORTS DISCUSSED IN THE JOINT STATEMENT WERE NOT LARGE COMPARED TO TOTAL SIZE OF JAPANESE MARKET AND THAT INTERESTS OF JAPANESE FARMERS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

4. EDITORIAL REACTIONS WERE MOSTLY POSITIVE THOUGH NOT COMPLETELY FREE OF RANCOR. SOME REPETITION OF PRESS LINE ADOPTED DURING RIVERS/HIGINBOTHAM VISIT SHOWED IN REFERENCES IN YOMIURI AND ASAHI TO "IMPOLITE DIPLOMATIC ATTITUDE" OF THE U.S. AND INTERFERENCE

IN BUDGET MAKING PROCESS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.
HOWEVER, YOMIURI WENT ON TO NOTE THAT JOINT STATEMENT
IS ONLY ONE STAGE IN A LONG PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT
AND, ALTHOUGH JAPAN WAS SHOULDERING HEAVY TASK
WITHOUT MUCH COMPENSATION THE CONSULTATIONS WERE,
NEVERTHELESS, NOT A FAILURE BECAUSE JAPAN HAD TO
CHANGE ITS COURSE SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY.

5. ASAHI NOTED THAT THE JOINT STATEMENT CLOSES A
GAP IN U.S.-JAPAN ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS BUT IS
ONLY A CEASE FIRE. ASAHI SAID THAT DESPITE "UN-
REASONABLE DEMANDS," JAPAN SHOULD SEE THE TOKYO
ROUND OF THE MTN AS AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO CORRECT
RESTRICTIONS ON BOTH SIDES. SANKEI SAID JAPAN
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SHOULD ACCEPT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS BEFITTING
A SURPLUS NATION AND REFORM ITS ECONOMIC STRUCTURE,
BASED ON A LONG RANGE VISION. SANKEI ADDED,
HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE ONE-SIDED TO FIND FAULT ONLY
WITH JAPAN, AND BOTH THE U.S. AND EC SHOULD MAKE
A GREATER EFFORT TO BALANCE THEIR OWN INTERNA-
TIONAL PAYMENTS POSITIONS.

6. MAINICHI NOTED THAT JAPAN HAS MADE A VIRTUAL
INTERNATIONAL PLEDGE FOR A SEVEN PERCENT GROWTH
TARGET AND THAT THIS WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT
TO ACHIEVE. SAME THOUGHT WAS REFLECTED IN NIKKAN
KOGYO WHICH STATED THAT THE LDP POLICY BOARD
NOW FACES THE "GRIM TASK OF TAKING ALL MEANS
NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE SEVEN PERCENT ECONOMIC
GROWTH TARGET."
SHERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO00890
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780030-0437
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780143/aaaabkbu.tel
Line Count: 153
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e22dc7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 666
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3744880
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOOD IN JAPAN FOLLOWING STRAUSS VISIT
TAGS: ETRD, JA, US, (STRAUSS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e22dc7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014